

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Shine Tu on 7/30/09.

The application has been amended as follows:

Please cancel **claims 2-7**.

Please replace claim 1 with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing scar formation during the healing of at least one wound in a subject who has incurred injuries that result in said at least one wound or in a subject who will be inflicted with at least one surgical wound at a known site comprising applying a furin inhibitor, wherein the furin inhibitor is decanoyl-RVKR-cmk, directly to the site of said wound.

Reasons for allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art, Lindberg (US 2003/0087827) teaches that "previously reported small molecules that inhibit furin such as decanoyl-RVKR-CH₂-AVG-NH₂ exhibit toxicity at the concentration needed for inhibition. However, ketones and chloromethyl derivatives tend to have

unacceptable *in vivo* toxicity and hence their use has been confined to probing enzyme-structure relationships *in vitro* [0012]. Therefore, the prior art does not teach or suggest, alone or in combination, the instantly claimed method for reducing scar formation during healing of a wound wherein the method comprises of applying decanoyl-RVKR-cmk directly to the site of wound.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Satyanarayana R. Gudibande whose telephone number is 571-272-8146. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-4.30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cecilia Tsang can be reached on 571-272-0562. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Satyanarayana R Gudibande/
Examiner, Art Unit 1654

/Andrew D Kosar/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1654